

REMARKS

The Examiner has required the Applicants to elect one of two perceived patentably distinct groups of claims: Group I (claims 1 – 12, 19, 20, 23 and 24) or Group II (claims 13 – 18, 21 and 22). Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, Group I, claims 1 – 12, 19, 20, 23 and 24.

Applicants hereby withdraw claims 13 – 18, 21 and 22, but expressly reserve the right to file one or more divisional application(s) directed to the subject matter of the non-elected claims present in the application (*i.e.*, claims 13 – 18, 21 and 22).

Claims 1 – 12, 19, 20, 23 and 24 will be pending upon entry of this paper.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the application now proceed promptly to examination. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with the Applicants' attorney would expedite the allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at 617-570-1408.

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Respectfully submitted,

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